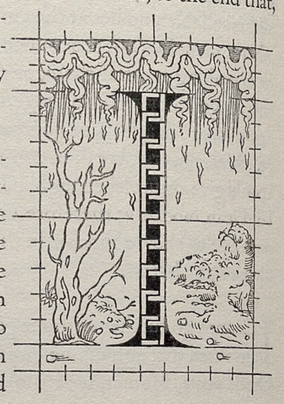
imagines that Jupiter said that he alone, with a chain of gold, could draw to himself, if he would, all the other Gods, aye, and with them the earth and the sea.* Lucian, in his *Dialogues of the Gods,* shows us Mars and Mercury conspiring and muttering against Jupiter because of this said chain,† and Macrobius, one of the greatest Latin philosophers, makes mention thereof in his first book, *In Somnium Scipionis,* when he says: *Cumque omnia continuis successionibus se sequantur degenerantia, per ordinem ad imum meandi, inuenietur pressius intuenti, a summo Deo usque ad ultimum una se mutuis vinculis religans, et nusquam interrupta connexio. Et hæc est Homeri Cathena aurea, quam pendere de cælo in terras Deum jussisse commemorat.*‡ 'He who shall choose,' he says, 'to meditate and observe, will find a chain and bond formed of intertwined links, which hangs down from heaven to earth'; which is to say that every inspiration, spiritual & corporeal, that we can know here below, proceeds from the sovereign Creator of the whole world. Let us, then, imagine and believe that we see this gold chain hanging down from heaven even to our feet, and this chain is of a length & breadth duly proportioned and adaptable to the symmetrical figure of our model letter I, and we shall perceive that Homer's conceit is to be referred to the inspiration and invention of letters and sciences, which have never been and cannot be known without divine aid and quickening.

* *See note 37 to page 66.*

† *Dialogue* XXI, *Martis et Mercurii.*

‡ I, 14, 15.

TO show the harmony between our letters and this chain of gold I have designed and drawn it here with our said I, to the end that, together with my words, the Philosophy which encompasses our said letters, and which I have observed, may be made manifest to the eye.



YOU can see in the figure here designed and drawn the divine harmony between our model letter & the Homeric chain of gold, & how I have arranged in such wise that there are just ten links corresponding to the ten units of height of the I, & likewise to the nine Muses & their Apollo, which I have hereinbefore drawn & arranged

together. The reason why I have allotted ten rather than more or less is clearly stated; but, furthermore, I find that our excellent Ancient Fathers intended to attribute consummate and absolute perfection to the tenth number, inasmuch as it is an even number, composed of both even and odd numbers. Martianus Capella, in his Book VII, where he speaks of the *Decade,* is a good witness when he says: *Decas vero vltra omnes habenda quæ omnes numeros diuersæ virtutis ac perfectionis intra se habet.** 'The tenth,' he says, 'in truth is of surpassing excellence, seeing that it contains and has in itself all the numbers both odd and even, that is to say, all good qualities and perfection.'

* VII, 742.

I Can, therefore, well say, and truthfully maintain, that I have good reason for having fashioned my letters with a height of ten units, which is the noblest and most perfect of all numbers; for the Ancient Fathers determined to place all the numbers & symbols of Arithmetic beneath it, and after it there is no number which has a special name, but always a repetition, as we see when we say *onze, douze, treize,* and so with the other numbers that come after, which mean one, or two, or three, or more, after and with ten.

THE King of Greek Poets, Homer, wishing to show covertly that the man supreme in counsel is he in whom all useful knowledge is and dwells, introduces Agamemnon, in the First Book of his *Iliad,* wishing that he might have ten Nestors, when he says: *Ad quem respondens, Agamemnon. 'Enim vero,' inquit, 'venerande senex omnes sine controuersia Grecos Senatores vincis in dicenda sententia. Atque vtinam fecisses pater Jupiter; tuque, O Minerua; et tu, Apollo, vt decem mihi ex omnibus Græcis forent tanto consilio viri, 'Breui profecto Troia nostris manibus capta deleretur.'* Agamemnon, answering Nestor, said to him: 'O venerable old man, without doubt thou dost surpass in wisdom and good counsel all the Senators of Greece. O Jupiter, would that it might please thee, & thee, Minerva, and likewise thee, Apollo, that from all the men of Greece I might have ten like Nestor; then would Troy, taken by our hands, be speedily destroyed.'

I Set down here these fine things in order to show always more abundantly the great and sovereign perfection of our letters. They are so truly measured & proportioned that they fit together like the links of the chain of gold; for the Letters and Sciences are so akin and so loyal to each other that, if you have knowledge of the one, you have free en-

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